



Del Monte Foods
Plant No. 450
P.O. Box 30190
Stockton, CA 95213-0190
(209) 465-3911

May 24, 1995

TO: Del Monte Fruit Growers

SUBJECT: Use of Municipal Sewage Sludge or Waste Water on Del Monte Crops

It has come to our attention that growers are experiencing increased pressure from local municipalities to permit the application of sewage sludge, sometimes referred to as "biosolids," on their lands. This memo is a reminder that it is Del Monte's policy not to accept any raw product grown on sludge treated lands. Paragraph 11 of the fruit and tomato contracts state, "Seller warrants that no municipal sludge, sewage, or waste water has been applied to lands on which fruit delivered or tendered for delivery has been grown."

Application of such products will void your contract.

While we recognize that biosolids may offer benefits when applied under the proper conditions, we have fundamental safety concerns that still must be addressed. First, too little is known about the health risks -- disagreement continues within the scientific community over the safety of exposed workers and consumers. Second, the risks are difficult to control -- insufficient federal, state, local, or Del Monte resources are available to enforce EPA standards on every acre potentially exposed.

The National Academy of Sciences is currently reviewing the safety of agricultural use of biosolids and waste water. Its final report, which is due out at the end of the year, should begin to clarify this very complex issue. However, until further notice Del Monte will continue to enforce its no sludge policy.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact your field representative, myself, or Pat McCaa at our Stockton Office (209) 465-3911, or Steve Balling in our Research Center (510) 944-7377.

Sincerely,

Del Monte Foods

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John R. Dixon".

John R. Dixon

Agricultural Operations Manager